

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 108418
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:TGERTH:TL
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
EUR:JAARMITAGE (SUBSTANCE)
EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
EUR/WE:BMCKINLEY (DRAFT)
S/S-O:RGAMBLE

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EUR ONLY

-----140110Z 104559 /73

R 131651Z MAY 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

S E C R E T STATE 108418

EXDIS, ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: XGDS 2

TAGS: PFOR, HU

SUBJECT: VATICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN

1. DURING THE APRIL VISIT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN TO BUDAPEST, THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT AGAIN RAISED THE ISSUE OF OUR CONTINUED RETENTION OF THE CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN. IN ADDITION, AN INITIATIVE TO RETURN THE CROWN HAS DEVELOPED WITHIN THE CONGRESS, LED BY CONGRESSMAN VANIK. AS PART OF OUR REVIEW OF SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IN US-EE RELATIONS, WE ARE STUDYING THE CROWN QUESTION.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 108418

2. WE NOTE THAT IN 1945 AND 1946 THE VATICAN REQUESTED US TO CONSIGN THE CROWN TO THE HOLY SEE FOR SAFEKEEPING. OUR VIEW AT THAT TIME WAS THAT THE FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE CROWN SHOULD BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WISHES OF THE HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT. THE HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER STATED THAT THE CROWN'S RETURN AT THAT TIME WOULD BE INOPPORTUNE AND THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD CONTINUE TO SAFEGUARD IT.

3. DURING JULY 1972 MEETING SECRETARY ROGERS ASKED THE POPE'S ATTITUDE ABOUT TRANSFER OF THE CROWN TO VATICAN CUSTODY AND OBTAINED A NEGATIVE REACTION.

4. AT THIS TIME AND AS PART OF OUR STUDY OF THE CROWN,

WE WISH YOU TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER THE VATICAN'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CROWN AND ITS RETURN MIGHT HAVE EVOLVED, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURED IN RECENT YEARS WITHIN HUNGARY AND THE IMPROVEMENT WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE IN VATICAN-GOH RELATIONS. IF SO, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THE VATICAN WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONVEY WORD IN SOME FASHION TO INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE UNITED STATES THAT IT FAVORED, OR WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION, TO RETURN OF THE CROWN TO HUNGARY.

5. CARDINAL LEKAI HAS TOLD OUR CHARGE IN BUDAPEST THAT THE CHURCH IN HUNGARY WOULD WELCOME RETURN. WHAT EFFECT DOES THE VATICAN BELIEVE RETURN OF THE CROWN WOULD HAVE ON VATICAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS AND CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS IN HUNGARY? CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, FOREIGN RELATIONS, NATIONAL EMBLEMS, US CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE108418
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TGERTH:TL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770170-0070
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770561/aaaabzur.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 90b3a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2532849
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VATICAN ATTITUDE TOWARD CROWN OF ST. STEPHEN
TAGS: PFOR, HU, VT, US, XH
To: ROME
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/90b3a494-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009